GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2630
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2017
Banning of Tobacco Products
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of deaths registered in the country due to smoking and use of other tobacco products during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether sale of tobacco products has been affected due to bigger pictorial health warning and its stakeholders have requested to limit such warning to 50 percent and if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to impose complete ban on production and marketing of tobacco products in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the outcome of such initiatives would affect the livelihood of tobacco farmers and if so, the measures taken by the Government to safeguard their interests: and

(e) the details of measures and campaigns initiated by the Government to spread awareness about the ill-effects of tobacco consumption?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): As per the "Report on Tobacco Control in India" published in 2004, about 8-9 lakhs deaths per year are attributable to tobacco related diseases.

(b): No such survey has been conducted. The Committee on Subordinate Legislation (COSL) 16th Lok Sabha made a recommendation to limit the size of health warning up to 50 percent on one side of the beedi pack, chewing tobacco and other tobacco products. The recommendation has not been accepted. The introduction of large health warnings has been implemented with a view to informing the consumers in a better way about the harmful impact of tobacco use on health.

(c): At present, there is no such proposal with this Ministry. However, under Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement, Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, there is ban on sale of cigarettes or any other tobacco products to and by persons below the age of eighteen years, within 100 yards of educational institutions and ban on promotion/advertisement of cigarettes or any other tobacco products. Further, under the Act, there is prohibition of production, supply or distribution of cigarettes or any other tobacco products unless every package of cigarettes or any other tobacco products produced, supplied or distributed bears thereon, or on its label, the specified health warning including a pictorial warning.

The Food Safety and Standards Regulations issued in 2011 under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 lay down that tobacco and nicotine cannot be used as ingredients in Food Products.

(d): The initiatives taken by the Government are aimed at the promotion of public health through spreading awareness about the harms and adverse health consequences of tobacco use and certain restrictions on sale, promotion/advertisement, production, supply or distribution of tobacco products.

However, the Crop Diversification Programme, an ongoing sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) run by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has been extended to 10 tobacco growing states w.e.f. 2015-16 to encourage tobacco growing farmers to shift to alternate crops/cropping systems.

(e): Government of India has notified rules to regulate films and TV programmes depicting scenes of tobacco usage to spread awareness. Such films and TV programmes are statutorily required to run anti-tobacco health spots, disclaimers and static health warnings.

Further, to spread awareness on adverse impact of consumption of tobacco products, the size of specified health warnings on packages of tobacco and tobacco products has been increased to 85% w.e.f. 1st April, 2016.

The stakeholders are being made aware on a regular basis about the adverse effects of tobacco usage on health through various anti-tobacco campaigns vide different mode of communication including TV, Radio, Print media, social media, films etc.

The Ministry has started National Toll-free Helpline in 2008 to provide information on harmful effects of consumption of tobacco, and on how to quit tobacco use, including after-effects of quitting tobacco.